



Unit .26

Session .03

Jesus Shares the Lord's Supper

Scripture



Luke 22:14-23

14 When the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. **15** Then he said to them, “I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” **17** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. **18** For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” **19** And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said,

“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **20** In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. **21** But look, the hand of the one betraying me is at the table with me. **22** For the Son of Man will go away as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” **23** So they began to argue among themselves which of them it could be who was going to do it.

Intro Options



Main Point:
**The Lord's Supper
points to Jesus'
sacrifice for sins.**

Option 1

Your students will be creating “commemorative items” to mark a special occasion (think of the “commemorative coins” you sometimes see for sale on TV to mark particular occasions).

First, as an entire group, have students decide on a particular occasion; it can be real or made up. It could be their middle school graduation; it could be the re-release of a classic movie; it could be your church's one hundredth anniversary.

Once your large group has decided on an occasion, have students form groups (or they may work alone). Each group is to come up with a “commemorative item” that they will produce and offer to mark this historic occasion. It can be anything they like: a coin, a song, a poster, a plate-set, a phone case, you name it. If they can (and supplies are available), they should produce a copy of this commemorative item. If they can't, they should try to make a picture or some depiction of the item.

Let them make and share their items. Tell them that in today's lesson, they'll learn about the Lord's Supper; it is the ultimate “commemorative” item to mark Jesus' death and to foreshadow His return.

Option 2

Your church wants to create a “past-present-progress” time capsule. They will be collecting items that they will then bury (or put into a vault) to be opened again in two hundred years. To make this capsule, they are looking for items that capture all three of the Ps in their theme: past, present, and progress (future). For example, one item they've decided on is a hymnbook; the hymnal shows their past by having old songs; it shows their present in that they currently sing these songs; it will show their future because they intend for music to be a central part of their services for a long time to come.

They've asked your student group to give five items for the capsule. Have your students come up with a list of potential past-present-progress items. Then begin voting by process of elimination until you get down to the five items they will contribute. Why do they think those five are the best?

Tell that in today's lesson, we'll be looking at the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper has a past-present-future aspect to it; it looks back to a past sacrifice; it marks a presently-inaugurated new covenant; it anticipates the future return of Jesus. Talk about a time-capsule item!

TEACHING PLAN

Read Luke 22:14-18.



Through the Lord's Supper, we are reminded that Jesus is our Suffering Servant and our conquering King. He will return, and when He does, He will come not to die but to reign as the eternal King over His perfect kingdom. The curse of sin will be reversed. All that is wrong will be made right. Every tear will be wiped from the eyes of His people. All our pain will be gone. When we share the feast with our Savior after He returns, no one will be struggling with cancer around the table. No one will be mourning the death of a loved one. No one will be worrying about a relationship. No one will be wondering about the next act of injustice or thinking about the most recent one in the news. Everything will be as it should be in the kingdom of God.

- **Do you look forward to the full arrival of God's future kingdom? Why or why not?**
- **When have you felt the deep desire, or need, for God's kingdom? For Jesus?**

Read Luke 22:19.



The Passover meal was an annual celebration for the Israelites to remember that God had set their ancestors free from slavery in Egypt. The various foods used in the meal represented aspects of their life in, and their exodus from, Egypt. But when Jesus took the unleavened bread, broke it, gave it to His disciples to eat, and connected the symbol of the bread to His body, which would soon be broken on the cross for their salvation, He substantially transformed the meaning of the Passover meal.

The Book of Exodus records that God's people had been living in Egypt for centuries, and much of that time was spent in captivity and slavery (Ex. 12:40). In His perfect timing, the Lord "heard" and "saw" their misery, He remembered His promise to His people, and He acted on their behalf (Ex. 2:24-25). He repeatedly sent Moses to Pharaoh with the message "Let My people go," but Pharaoh continually refused. So God sent a series of plagues to bring Pharaoh to the point where he would set the Israelites free. The tenth and last plague was the most devastating of them all—the death of every firstborn male throughout Egypt, from Pharaoh's household to the livestock in the field. God's people, however, would be spared from this plague if they trusted Him and obeyed His instruction to paint the blood of a slaughtered lamb on the doorposts of their homes. When the Lord saw the blood as a "distinguishing mark," He would "pass over" their homes and their firstborn sons would be spared (Ex. 12:13).

The Lord also instituted the Passover meal, featuring the meat of a sacrificial lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs, to memorialize what had occurred in the exodus from Egypt (Ex. 12–13; Deut. 16:1-8). The lamb recalled the substitute sacrifice to redeem the firstborn sons of Israel. The unleavened bread pointed to the Israelites' need for haste as they departed Egypt and was called "the bread of hardship" (Deut. 16:3). The bitter herbs symbolized the bitterness of the Israelites' time in Egypt while they were slaves.



COMMENTARY

Main Point:
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Luke 22

14-18. Patience does not come naturally to most of us. A favorite meal on the stove requires a taste test. An incredible dessert demands to be eaten long before the party even begins. Why spend the time shopping and cooking the elaborate meal when you can order a pizza or heat a frozen dinner? Why take the time to write a letter and wait on the mail when you can text? Technology has rendered many completely unable to wait in patience.

But there is something about waiting and anticipation that is inherent to the Christian faith. In fact, we see the importance of patience and waiting in the account of the Lord's Supper.

There in that tiny upper room, what must have seemed like an offhand remark is actually a beautiful promise. Jesus would not drink of the vine again soon, but He would drink it again. Not only would He drink it again, but He would do so with the disciples in the kingdom of His Father.

The message of the coming kingdom is a message of hope, joy, and fulfillment and is the longing of the Christian heart. So, we pray for God's kingdom to come (Matt. 6:10). We hunger and thirst for the kingdom, because we hunger and thirst for the King.

19. God sent Jesus to rescue of us from the slavery of our sin. We were enslaved to our own foolishness and our own sinfulness, but the God who is rich in mercy loved us and pursued us in the middle of our captivity (Eph. 2:1-5). We were rescued not because the blood of lambs was placed on the doorposts of our homes but because the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, has been placed over our lives (1 Cor. 5:7; 1 Pet. 1:18-21). Just as the Israelites ate the Passover meal to remember, we eat the Lord's Supper to remember—but we remember the much greater salvation through Christ on the cross to free us from our sin.

Activity

Each group gets three sheets of paper to create a small booklet showing the significance of the Lord's Supper. Each page is to represent one of the three main points of the lesson: one sheet for the past sacrifice; one sheet for the present covenant; one sheet for the future return. Here's the trick; they are to design the book such that the pictures overlap. Think of it like some children's books where there are holes in the first pages; perhaps a cut-out window on the first page looks into a pasture; that pasture is a full-blown part of the second page. The idea is to show that even though the Lord's Supper has three time elements to it, it is one overlapping practice. Give them the chance to make the book and to share it with the group.



99 Essential Doctrines (p. 56, DDG)

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26).

TEACHING PLAN

In the United States, a potential comparison to the Passover might be Fourth of July celebrations, in which we celebrate our declaration of independence and the beginning of our country with barbecue parties and fireworks. Yet the Passover meal had more depth and meaning to it than a typical national holiday, and the story behind it was more miraculous. While Americans tell stories of might, grit, and savvy leadership that led to freedom, the Jewish people knew their freedom came only because of God's hand. No human being could take credit for their rescue; God clearly was the One who planned it and pulled it off.

▪ What are some holidays that have special meaning for you?

Jesus gave Himself in order to save us, so we observe the Lord's Supper to remember what Jesus has done for us. The Passover reminded the Israelites of their liberation from Egyptian slavery. In the Lord's Supper, we remember our liberation from spiritual slavery. The Passover recalled the Lord's provision through the blood of lambs. In the Lord's Supper, we remember the Lord's provision through the Lamb of God. The Passover reminded the Israelites of their hardship in their exodus from Egypt through the unleavened bread. The Lord's Supper teaches us that Jesus took the hardship of our salvation upon Himself as the bread broken for us.

▪ Why is it important that we remember what Jesus has done for us?

Read Luke 22:20-23.



As the Jewish people took the Passover meal, if they thought about it, they would remember God's favor toward them in the exodus but also their failure to live up to their promises and keep God's commands. Their only hope for peace with God was His graciousness to prescribe and accept the death of an animal in the place of their own deserved death for their sins. 

For thousands of years, God required sacrifices from His people. From Adam to Noah to Abraham to David, the Israelites were a people of sacrifice. But as our God always intended to be the One to offer the ultimate sacrifice for His people. As Jesus came to serve and not be served, He offered up His life as a ransom for others. His blood was poured out for our sins—and the Last Supper was a representation of that.

When Jesus broke the bread and lifted the cup, He was painting a picture of a new reality. He crafted a visual depiction of the events that would soon occur—His body would hang between earth and air, and His blood would flow from His pierced side. His broken body: the breaking of bread. His blood poured out: the drinking of the cup. Even now, as we participate in the Lord's Supper together, we do so to remember what He sacrificed for us (1 Cor. 11:17-26).

▪ How does the Lord's Supper provide a picture of salvation in Christ?

COMMENTARY

Main Point:
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Luke 22

20-23. The old covenant was pure, but we are impure. The old covenant was righteous, but we are unrighteous. The old covenant shows us that we desperately need the One who came to give us a new covenant. In the Lord's Supper, the bread represents the body of Christ sacrificed and broken for sinners, and the cup represents His blood, which was shed to inaugurate the new covenant for the people of God. Only through Jesus can we find forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

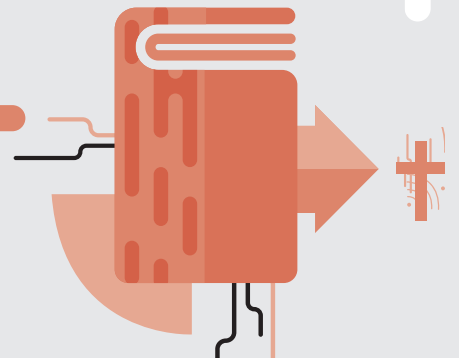
Sin entered the world during a meal. In Genesis 3, Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat fruit from the one tree God told them not to eat from. If they did, he said their eyes would be opened and they would have a life like God's. But when they ate from the tree, death and destruction entered our world, just as God said would happen. Satan is a liar; he lied to Adam and Eve and he lies to us too. There is no life when we disobey God, only death. Sin and death entered the world through the lie that there is life apart from God. Through Satan, taking and eating became a death sentence for all of humanity.

Jesus entered our world to right our wrongs, to offer us forgiveness, and to bring the gift of life. He did this by offering Himself as a sacrifice in our place so that God's judgment might pass over us. Jesus' blood poured out on the cross to inaugurate the promised new covenant that we need (Jer. 31:31-34). Jesus is the meal that we need, the meal that satisfies us, and the meal that makes us right with God. We remember and celebrate this provision in the bread and the cup of the Lord's Supper.

Both Satan and Jesus invite us to take and eat. But only Jesus gives us life. The Lord's Supper is a picture, a reminder, of the new relationship we have with God. Through faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we can once again enjoy being in God's presence forever. To undo our choice of believing the lie of Satan and eating in disobedience, Jesus had to come and die; He had to be broken and shed His blood. And having risen from the dead, He invites us to receive Him in faith and receive His eternal life.

(p. 58, DDG) Christ Connection

Thousands of years before Jesus came, God made a covenant with Israel and sealed it with sacrifice. When the people of God broke the covenant and worshiped false gods, God promised to enact a new covenant in which He would forgive sins and write His law on His people's hearts. At the Last Supper, Jesus explained that His sacrificial death would establish this new covenant and bring forgiveness of sins.





JESUS SHARES THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper points to Jesus' sacrifice for sins.

JESUS CONNECTION



Long before Jesus came, God made a covenant with Israel that they would worship only Him. Every year, they offered a lamb as the sacrifice for all the ways they did not keep God's covenant. But that sacrifice pointed to a future day when God would establish a new covenant with His people. At the Last Supper, Jesus revealed that He would sacrifice His life to establish this new covenant forever.



LIFEWISE QUALITY

SACRIFICE – Giving of myself to help someone else.



HEAD

Why did the Jewish people celebrate the Passover every year?

How is the Last Supper a picture of Jesus' sacrifice for us?



HEART

God instructed Israel to eat the Passover meal to remind them of how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt. Jesus told the disciples this Last Supper would be a reminder of a greater rescue—His death for our sins. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be the sacrifice for sins? Why couldn't we pay for our own sins?

Jesus paid the price to redeem us from our sins with His body and blood on the cross. Why is this such an amazing sacrifice? What response should this kind of sacrifice inspire in us?



HANDS

Sacrifice isn't pretty or easy. It is inconvenient and uncomfortable, but it's the way Jesus lived. He invites us to give of ourselves for others as He did—not just people we like, but strangers and even our enemies. We can sacrifice our time, energy, possessions and money for those who are hurting, lonely or needy. Pick one area—home, school, a group or activity you belong to or a local community group—and think of 1–2 practical ways you can sacrifice for those people this week. Pray and ask God to give you the desire and the strength to do them and then put them into practice this week.